

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 00464 270711Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 ARA-10 NSC-05 INR-05

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 SP-02 L-01 IO-06

PA-01 ACDA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEA-07 MCE-00 HA-02

/080 W

-----002696 270716Z /15

P R 231449Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5937

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 464

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, MARR, CU, UR, RW

SUBJECT: RWANDAN WORRIES OVER SOVIETS, CUBANS

REF KIGALI 447

1. WITHOUT GOING INTO ALL DETAILS REPORTED REFTEL, I  
COMPARED NOTES THIS AFTERNOON WITH MY BELGIAN AND FRENCH  
COLLEAGUES AND LEARNED THE FOLLOWING:

A. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR VAN CROMBRUGGE APPEARED TO  
HAVE NO RPT NO INFORM CORROBORATING NSEKALIJE'S ASSERTION  
THAT CUBANS WERE INAUGURATING MILITARY ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM IN BURUNDI (REFTEL). MEANWHILE, HIS CONTINUING  
DIFFICULTIES WITH RWANDANS OVER GOB MILITARY ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM HERE (INHOSPITABLE TREATMENT OF SENIOR BELGIAN  
MILITARY OFFICIALS, REFUSAL TO ACCEPT USED OR OBSOLESCE  
MILITARY EQUIPMENT OFFERED FREE) PERSUADE HIM GOR REALLY  
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DOESN'T WANT WESTERN MILITARY HELP. HOWEVER, BELGIAN  
SHARES FONMIN'S CONCERNS ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF CUBAN  
PRESENCE IN BUJUMBURA FOR ZAIRIAN SECURITY.

COMMENT: BELGIAN AMB'S RELATIONS WITH RWANDAN MILITARY  
HAVE GONE FROM BAD TO WORSE IN RECENT MONTHS. HE BELIEVES  
SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE UPPER HAND WITH PRESIDENT

HABYARIMANA AND ARE CALLING ALL SHOTS ON DEFENSE MATTERS, WITH PREFERENCE GOING TO INCREASED LIBYAN TIES AND SUPPLIES (TO BELGIAN'S CHAGRIN). AS HE SEES IT, NSEKALJE IS CHIEF VILLAIN IN OFFICER GROUP. I DO NOT RPT NOT AGREE WITH VAN CROMBRUGGE'S ASSESSMENT.

B. FRENCH AMB MAINERE (WHO HAD ALREADY TOLD ME HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE) SAID HE, TOO, HAD BEEN GIVEN MESSAGE YESTERDAY -- IN HIS CASE, BY HABYARIMANA HIMSELF -- THAT GOR EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT INCREASED SOVIET/CUBAN ACTIVITY IN BURUNDI AND (IN SAME BREATH) UNHAPPY AT FRANCE'S RELUCTANCE TO AUGMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA. HABYARIMANA TOLD HIM WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE LEAVING RWANDA TO "FACE THE WOLF" UNPROTECTED. MANIERE BELIEVES PRESIDENT UNDER STRONG MILITARY PRESSURE TO SHOW BENEFITS OF WESTERN TIES OR ELSE SHIFT ALIGNMENT TOWARD SOVIETS.

COMMENT: FRENCH AMG'S STOCK HAS RISEN AS STEADILY AS BELGIAN'S HAS FALLEN, IN PART THANKS TO RECENT DONATION OF THREE PLANELOADS (727'S) OF OUTDATED FRENCH MILITARY HARDWARE TO RWANDA -- PRE-WWII MACHINE GUNS, ETC. -- WHICH COST FRANCE 1:3 MILLION FF IN TRANSPORT CHARGES BUT NEXT TO NOTHING FOR MATERIAL ITSELF. MANIERE IS ALSO RUGENTLY SEEKING AN ECONOMIC AID "TOKEN" OF FRANCE'S CONCERN TO ASSUAGE HABYARIMANA, ALTHOUGH FRENCH AID CONFIDENTIAL

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LEVELS ARE IN FACT ALREADY SUBSTANTIAL.

2. IF FOREGOING PROVES ANYTHING, IT IS MERELY THAT FRANCE IS HAPPY TO FILL BELGIUM'S FALTERING LEADERSHIP ROLE IN RWANDA IF IT CAN DO SO CHEAPLY.  
CRIGLER

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978KIGALI00464  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 78 KIGALI 447  
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**Review Event:**  
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**SAS ID:** 3228070  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RWANDAN WORRIES OVER SOVIETS, CUBANS  
**TAGS:** MPOL, MARR, MASS, CU, UR, RW, BY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014